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Journeyman **STUD**
See today's full page ad for more details

MAJOR PLAYERS IN TOWN FOR OBS MARCH



Photos by Z

by Steve Sherack and Brian DiDonato

OCALA, Florida--Unseasonably cool temperatures and overcast conditions did very little to keep prospective buyers from completing their final inspections on the eve of Tuesday's first session of the two-day OBS March 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale in Ocala.

Leading trainers Bob Baffert, Chad Brown, Graham Motion, John Sadler, Keith Desormeaux, Phil D'Amato; advisors Alex Solis II and Jason Litt, Bob Feld, Charlie Boden, David Ingordo, Donato Lanni, Gary Young, Hubert Guy, John Moynihan and Steve Young; and Claiborne Farm's Walker Hancock, WinStar Farm's Elliott Walden and SF Bloodstock's Tom Ryan have all been spotted making the rounds at the sales barns.

"We've had very high traffic through the barns," consignor Nick de Meric commented while keeping a close eye on the activity outside of Barn 12. "We've been very busy. We've barely had a moment to catch our breath... That's a good sign, obviously, and I'm told we've had some good credit requests in the office, so hopefully it'll be a nice dynamic market."

While numbers were up at the [Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream Sale](#) earlier this month--the average of \$339,392 increased 3.8% from a year ago, and the median rose 8.0% to \$270,000--the continued trend of market polarization and particular strength at the top end was certainly evident at the first juvenile auction held this season in Miami. **Cont. p3**

TAPWRIT FLIES UP TO NUMBER TWO ON TDN DERBY 12 by T.D. Thornton

Favorites dominated this past weekend's GI Kentucky Derby preps, although the brilliance of ['TDN Rising Star' Mastery](#) (Candy Ride {Arg})'s victory in the GII San Felipe S. was immediately overshadowed by an abrupt pull-up and the revelation that he needs surgery for a condylar fracture to his left front ankle, knocking him off the Derby trail. Once this weekend's GII Rebel S. at Oaklawn Park is in the books, the bulk of the remaining important Derby prep races will extend to nine furlongs, which will start separating the pretenders from the contenders. Here's how the TDN Derby Top 12 looks at what is essentially the halfway juncture of the prep-race season.

Top-ranked ['Rising Star' McCracken](#) (Ghostzapper)'s return to the worktab with a :50.20 half-mile breeze (62/75) on Saturday at Palm Meadows was a welcome relief and an optimistic sign that a slight strain in his left front ankle was indeed just a "minor hiccup," as trainer Wilkes has described it. **Cont. p9**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

DANEHILL DANCER PASSES AWAY

Multiple champion sire **Danehill Dancer (Ire)** (Danehill) was euthanised at Coolmore Stud last weekend [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

1:31.71

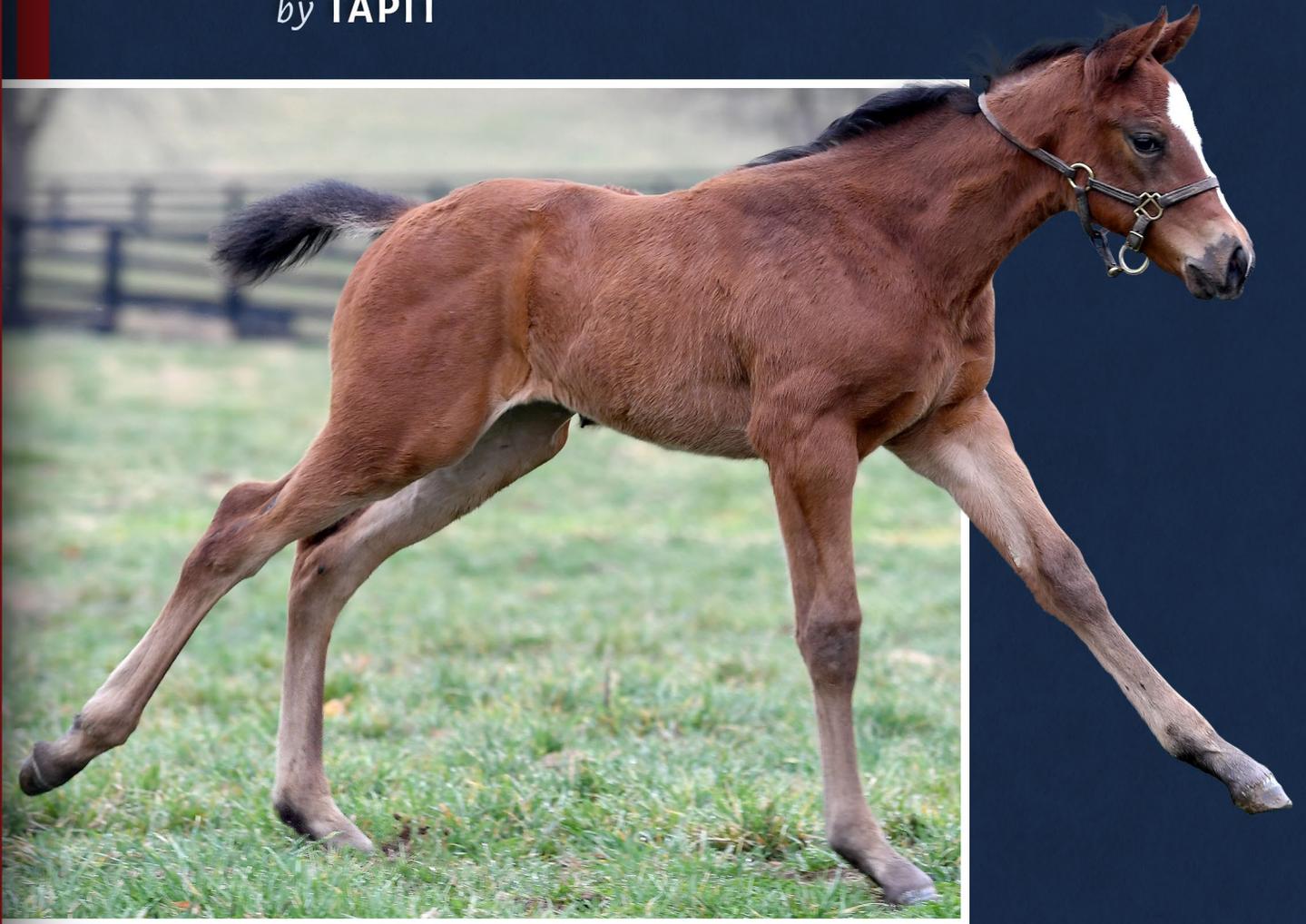
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Twin Creeks Racing*

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Hip 278

10.1

"A precocious and athletic individual, we are very happy with her."

- Justin Casse



Hip 548

10.1

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- Hal Hatch



Hip 346

21.1

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- Eddie Woods

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Source: TDN, 3/13

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Union Rags	3
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2-year-olds at
OBS MARCH
include Hip 339, colt
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Tuesday, March 14, 2017



Silhouettes. Willie Mullins trainees exercise on Monday morning at Cheltenham Racecourse in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, in preparation for the Cheltenham Festival, which starts on March 14. Visit TDN Europe for Emma Berry's Cheltenham previews and coverage. | Patrick McCann/Racing Post

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS: TAPWRIT

5

In his weekly column, Andrew Caulfield examines the prospects of Saturday's GII Tampa Bay Derby winner Tapwrit (Tapit) as he points toward the Classics.

UNDER ORDERS FOR JUMPS RACING'S BIGGEST WEEK **E1**

Emma Berry previews "National Hunt racing's Olympics," the week-long Cheltenham Festival in England.



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The 2 Year Old Source

Major Players in Town for OBS March

(cont. from p1)

A total of 677 2-year-olds have been catalogued for OBS March with already [150 listed as outs](#) on the OBS website as of Monday afternoon. Now in its third year *without* the "Select" moniker, the underlying question remains, 'Will the middle market emerge?'

"I'm hoping that this sale has the depth to it that sometimes lacks at these early 2-year-old sales," de Meric said. "But I feel very confident that it's going to be a strong sale at the top of the market and I think our better offerings look like they're being well-received. Fingers crossed. For me, I define a good market by the percentage we can get sold and I'm hoping that there will be enough interest in the more modest offerings to where we can get everybody placed."



Hip 462 | Photos by Z

Consignor Quincy Adams of [Q Bar J Thoroughbreds](#) added, "I think it's going to be good coming from Miami to OBS, there were people really out in droves trying to find horses in Miami. So, if that's any indicator for the market, we're in for a really good 2-year-old sale."

Asked if he expected those who were shut out at Fasig-Tipton to further drive demand at OBS, Adams replied, "That's what I'm betting on. They've got a good set of horses put together for the March sale, too. I'm seeing a lot of good horses on the grounds." [Hip 462](#), a son of More Than Ready consigned by Cary Frommer, Agent VI, fired the fastest eighth of a mile breeze in [:9 3/5](#) during the sale's three-day under-tack show.

"He's a special horse, and we did not actually see that breeze coming," Frommer revealed. "He's very, very talented, and owned by his breeder [Joseph Sutton]--he races also, so he won't sell him cheaply."

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Tapizar had more Two-Year-Olds weighted on the Experimental Free Hcp. than any freshman sire

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LGB, LLC 2017 / Photo: Vassar Photography

[Hip 153](#), a son of Super Saver consigned by de Meric Sales, Agent XXIV, breezed a quarter mile in a bullet [:20 1/5](#), the co-fastest breeze at that distance in OBS history.

"He's a freaky colt," de Meric said of the bay. "He actually has a feminine look when you see him on the line, which at this time of the year I'm more than happy about because sometimes with those big, bulky types, you have a hard time keeping them sound. He just absolutely sprouted wings out there, and he's been doing that at home as well--he actually didn't come from my stable [he came from Danny Pate's]. They've been talking a big line on this horse for a while and I've seen him work on the farm. [Last Thursday's breeze] was consistent with what he's done before he came here."

At the conclusion of last year's March auction, 325 juveniles changed hands for a combined \$51,650,000, good for an average of \$158,923 and median of \$100,000. The RNA rate was 25% at the immediate conclusion of the sale, but dropped after OBS added subsequent private post-sale transactions to the numbers.

The 2016 topper was [Hip 591](#), a Smart Strike colt purchased by Lane's End Bloodstock for \$1.9 million. The bay was consigned by Eddie Woods, Agent XV. Woods was leading consignor with \$6,440,500 in gross receipts from 26 sold. Lane's End Bloodstock led buyers with \$2,910,000 in expenditures for four 2-year-olds.

It was a big year on the track for recent OBS March alumni in 2016, led by the seven Grade I winners pictured on the catalogue cover.

Graduates of last year's auction include, GI Darley Alcibiades S. heroine **Dancing Rags** (Union Rags) (\$210,000-Casse Sales), GI Del Mar Futurity S. winner and '[TDN Rising Star](#)' **Klimt** (Quality Road) (\$435,000-Eddie Woods); and GI Chandelier S. victress and '[TDN Rising Star](#)' **Noted and Quoted** (The Factor) (\$375,000-Eddie Woods).



Hip 153 | Photos by Z



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Last year's March graduates also include three promising runners on this year's GI Kentucky Derby trail--**American Anthem** (Bodemeister) (\$435,000-Hoppel's Horse & Cattle Co.), '[TDN Rising Star](#)' **El Areeb** (Exchange Rate) (\$340,000-Eisaman Equine); and **Iliad** (Ghostzapper) (\$285,000-Eddie Woods).

"At the end of the day, it's great to sell horses for a lot of money, but the horses need to perform," [OBS President Tom Ventura](#) said. "We need repeat business, we need new buyers to take notice and when you have seven Grade I winners on the catalogue cover, and some others with a lot of promise that are on the Derby trail, that certainly helps.

Ventura concluded, "This sale has consistently produced top-end horses and last year's graduates have already been making a mark. That's critical for the ongoing success of the sale."

Both sessions of the OBS March Sale begin at 10:30 a.m., with hips 1-338 selling Tuesday and 339-677 headed to the ring Wednesday.

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All horses in the TDN are bred in North America, unless otherwise indicated

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING AT OBS MARCH...

"I think the track was very fair and even throughout, but the one thing you cannot change is when that wind does a 180 on you--nobody can do anything about that, and it does effect things. There's no getting around it. But most importantly, it was a very safe track and a very even track. Breaking the [breeze show] up into three days allows us to get done a little earlier in the day and helps the track from getting beaten up too much. They've done a great job with the track, and the weather we can't change." -Consignor Nick de Meric

"I think it's going to be a strong sale, I really do. There was a ton of interest for the right horses in Miami, and I'm sure it'll be the same way here. There was a lot of buzz there, that's for sure--a lot of people out shopping and it was quite exciting... This used to be a select sale, too, but they opened it up a little bit, which has spread out the interest a little, but still allowed the top-end folks to buy what they like. There should still be a couple million-dollar horses." -Consignor James Layden

PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

by Andrew Caulfield



TAPWRIT

Bearing in mind that sons of Tapit landed the 2014 and 2016 editions of the GI Belmont S., with others finishing second in 2015 and third in 2016, it would seem fair to conclude that the three-time champion sire is a reliable source of stamina. It must therefore sound very contradictory to harbor a few stamina doubts about any of his sons which emerge as possible contenders for the two-furlong-shorter GI Kentucky Derby.

However, as the Belmont is America's only Grade I dirt race over a distance as long as a mile and a half, it has become something of a paradox. Two of the Tapit colts which ran well in the Belmont--the 2014 winner Tonalist and the 2015 runner-up Frosted--later became Grade I winners over a mile. It is also worth looking at the record of Tapit's past contestants in the Kentucky Derby. Seven of his sons have bid for Classic glory at Churchill Downs (Hansen, Normandy Invasion, Tapiture, Frosted, Mohaymen, Lani and Creator), their best efforts being the fourth places achieved by Normandy Invasion, Frosted and Mohaymen.

UP WHERE IT MATTERS...

Leading 2nd Crop Sires In 2017

Rk	Stallion	2017 fee	Wnrs	Earnings
1	STAY THIRSTY	\$10,000	16	\$689,427
2	Dialed In	\$15,000	6	\$617,982
3	Maclean's Music	\$8,500	13	\$556,475
4	Shackleford	\$15,000	14	\$478,732
5	Gemologist	\$25,000	11	\$414,842
6	Tapizar	\$15,000	13	\$410,128
7	The Factor	\$25,000	11	\$384,802

Source: Bloodhorse.com, March 13

Cosmo Charlie, a recent SW at Meydan, runs next in the G2 UAE Derby.



DOWN WHERE IT COUNTS!

STAY THIRSTY

G1 Travers winner like his sire Bernardini

3 more winners at the weekend: Have Another (MSW@AQU), Nonna Bella (ALW@GP) and Princess Karen (ALW@SA)

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TAPWRIT, c, 3

Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-3-1-0, \$313,902.

Tapit	Pulpit	A.P. Indy	Seattle Slew
			Weekend Surprise
	Preach	Mr. Prospector	
	Tap Your Heels	Unbridled	Narrate
			Fappiano
Ruby Slippers		Gana Facil	
Appealing Zophie GISW, 12-3-2-1 8Fls, 3wnrs, 1GSW	Successful Appeal	Valid Appeal	Nijinsky II
			Moon Glitter
	Successful Dancer	In Reality	
	Zophie 9Fls, 4wnrs	Hawkster	Desert Trial
			Fortunate Prospect
		Sodeo Sodeo	Debonair Dancer
			Silver Hawk
		Strait Lane	
		Seattle Slew	
		Melody Tree	

It's a fact that Tonalist and Creator rank among a relatively small number of Tapit's black-type winners which have won at a mile-and-a-quarter or more. They are joined by Careless Jewel (GI Alabama S. over a mile and a quarter), Headache (GII Hawthorne Gold Cup over a mile and a quarter), the turf mare White Rose (GIII Glens Falls S. over 1 3/8 miles) and Scuba (a graded winner over 1 1/2 miles and 1 3/4 miles as a 5-year-old). There's also Closing Bell (Dueling Grounds Derby)

and Testa Matta (Japan Dirt Derby). That adds up to quite an impressive collection, but it mustn't be forgotten that they come from a total of 94 black-type winners by the Gainesway star.

Last year, I wondered about the [stamina potential of Cupid](#) after his victory in the GII Rebel S. over 1 1/16 miles, and he didn't venture beyond a mile and an eighth. Now I am wondering about **Tapwrit**, even though he now ranks second in the Kentucky Derby points race following his GII Tampa Bay Derby [triumph](#). I would be the first to admit there was nothing in the style of the colt's success that suggests a shortage of stamina--he relaxed well and finished strongly--but his pedigree raises the odd doubt.



Tonalist, one of Tapit's two Belmont winners | Sarah K. Andrew

DON'T GET LOST IN THE CROWD...



Fasig-Tipton

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These doubts stem from the records of his dam Appealing Zophie and her sire Successful Appeal. Appealing Zophie will be remembered as one of the best juvenile fillies of 2006, when her Experimental weight of 118 was bettered only by Dreaming of Anna and Octave, the first two in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, and by Cash Included, winner of the GI Oak Leaf S.

Appealing Zophie had earned her high rank with a wire-to-wire success in the GI Spinaway S. over seven furlongs, after which she finished fourth in the Juvenile Fillies and second in the Delta Princess S. She confirmed that she stayed 1 1/16 miles when she landed the GIII Silverbulletday S. early in her sophomore season but by the summer she was competing over six furlongs.

Successful Appeal also made the occasional foray over distances of a mile or 1 1/16 miles, notably winning the GII Withers S. over a mile. However, it was

at around six furlongs that he won four other graded stakes, at the ages of two, three and four.

Of course, having a winner over sprint distances as your broodmare sire has been no obstacle to success in the Kentucky Derby, as we have seen with such as Smarty Jones (out of a mare by Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Smile), Barbaro (out of a daughter of Carson City), American Pharoah (dam by Yankee Gentleman) and Nyquist (whose broodmare sire is the GI King's Bishop S. winner Forestry). It must also be in Tapwrit's favor that Successful Appeal's first crop (sired while he was based in Florida) contained Closing Argument, a speedily bred colt who went close to landing the 2005 Kentucky Derby.

Appealing Zophie retired with earnings of nearly \$500,000, having cost \$105,000 as a yearling and \$150,000 as a Fasig-Tipton 2-year-old. She was back in the sales ring at the end



Tapwrit | SV Photography

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Fillies, Three years old
ONE MILE AND ONE-EIGHTH, Dirt

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\$100,000
Runs Sat., April 29
Three-year-olds
SIX FURLONGS, Dirt

KENTUCKY JUVENILE

\$100,000
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Two-year-olds
FIVE FURLONGS, Dirt

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\$300,000
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Four years old & Up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Dirt

ALYSHEBA, GRADE II

\$400,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Four-years-old and Up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Dirt

EIGHT BELLES, GRADE II

\$200,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies, Three years old
SEVEN FURLONGS, Dirt

EDGEWOOD, GRADE III *PRESENTED BY FORCHT BANK*

\$150,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies, Three years old
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Turf

TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT, GRADE III

\$150,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Three-year-olds and Up
FIVE FURLONGS, Turf

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\$500,000
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Second Closing
Four-year-olds and Up
ONE MILE AND
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HUMANA DISTAFF, GRADE I

\$300,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Fillies & Mares,
Four years old & Up
SEVEN FURLONGS, Dirt

AMERICAN TURF, GRADE II

PRESENTED BY RAM TRUCKS

\$300,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Three-year-olds
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Turf

CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE, GRADE II

PRESENTED BY LONGINES

\$300,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Fillies & Mares,
Four years old & Up
ONE MILE, Turf

CHURCHILL DOWNS, GRADE II

\$500,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Four-year-olds and Up
SEVEN FURLONGS, Dirt

PAT DAY MILE, GRADE III *PRESENTED BY LG&E AND KU*

\$250,000
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Three-year-olds
ONE MILE, Dirt

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Dan Bork, *Asst. Racing Secretary, Stakes Coordinator*



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of her 3-year-old campaign, when her price soared to \$1.1 million. Tapwrit repaid that price with a little interest at the Saratoga sale, where he made \$1.2 million. That price ranked him fourth among Tapit's 2015 yearlings. For the record, the ones which sold for even bigger prices were Tapit High, the \$2.1-million KEESEP sale-topper who has yet to race; Glory or Nothing, the \$2-million-dollar Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sales-topper who is also unraced; and Nezet, a \$1.65-million KEESEP purchase who is yet another still awaiting his debut.

To get back to Appealing Zophie, she is out of a daughter of Hawkster--something she shares with 2005's champion 3-year-old colt Afleet Alex, who landed the Preakness and Belmont after finishing third in the Kentucky Derby. Although these two Grade I winners represent just about the sum total of Hawkster's success as a broodmare sire, he did better in this role than he did as a sire. A Grade I winner over a mile and a half on turf, Hawkster managed to sire only three black-type winners among his 272 foals.



Tapwrit has two lines of 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew in his pedigree | Horsephotos

Tapwrit's third dam Sodeo Sodeo was an unraced three-parts-sister to the GI Florida Derby winner Croeso and she also had three grandparents in common with the Grade I 2-year-old winner Slewpy. Sodeo Sodeo was by Seattle Slew and therefore creates 4 x 4 inbreeding to the 1977 Triple Crown winner.

As you'd expect, Tapwrit is by no means the first good winner by Tapit with two lines of Seattle Slew. It is arguably in Tapwrit's favor that two others with 4 x 4 inbreeding are Frosted and Headache, both of whom rank among Tapit's better stayers. Another is Concorde Point, winner of the GII West Virginia Derby over a mile-and-an-eighth. There are also two good fillies inbred 4 x 3 to Seattle Slew, but these two--Touching Beauty and Dancing House, respectively--gained their Grade II successes over a

mile and seven furlongs.

Hopefully we will get a clearer view of Tapwrit's potential next time out.

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CONTENDERS

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(Cont. from p1)

1. MCCRAKEN (c, [Ghostzapper](#)--[Ivory Empress](#), by Seeking the Gold)

'[TDN Rising Star](#)' O/B-Whitham Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY). T-Ian R. Wilkes. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 4-4-0-0, \$310,848.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 1

Last Start: 1st, [GIII Sam F. Davis S.](#), TAM, Feb. 11

Accomplishments Include: 1st, [GII Kentucky Jockey Club S.](#), CD, Nov. 26, 1st, [Street Sense S.](#), CD, Oct. 30

Next start: Possible for GII Blue Grass S., KEE, Apr. 8

[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [EquineLine PPs](#), [Caulfield on McCracken](#)

KY Derby Points: 20

LAMBHOLM SOUTH Training Graduate

McCraken missed a planned start in the GII Tampa Bay Derby and will now aim for the first Saturday in May off a series of more intense workouts and a start in the Blue Grass. This 'TDN Rising Star' might risk blemishing his undefeated record in what is shaping up to be a "loaded" prep race at Keeneland, but the idea will be for McCracken to get the most out of the Blue Grass conditioning-wise (even if he doesn't win), so he'll be in peak form for the Derby four weeks later. It's an obvious advantage that McCracken already boasts three wins over the Churchill Downs strip, and it will be a tall task for the rest of the crop looking up at McCracken's lofty position atop the TDN Top 12 to dislodge him from the kingpin ranking prior to that next planned prep race Apr. 8.

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2. TAPWRIT (c, [Tapit](#)--[Appealing Zophie](#), by [Successful Appeal](#))

O-Bridlewood Farm, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners & Robert V. LaPenta. B-My Meadowview, LLC (KY). T-Todd A. Pletcher. Sales History: \$1,200,000 Ylg '15 FTNAUG. Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-3-1-0, \$313,902.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 8

Last Start: 1st, [GII Tampa Bay Derby](#), TAM, Mar. 11

Accomplishments Include: 1st, [Pulpit S.](#), GP, Dec. 10

Next Start: Uncommitted

[EquineLine PPs](#)

KY Derby Points: 54



Tapwrit delivered in a big way in the Tampa Bay Derby and he doesn't look like he's peaked yet, either. He had a slight stutter-step at the break, then didn't appear to mind mixing it up in close quarters with midpack rivals while jostling for position through the clubhouse turn. He comfortably switched into cruise mode while settling at the back of the main flight, was repositioned a tad closer by jockey Jose Ortiz entering the far turn, then sliced deftly between foes five-sixteenths out before being switched outside for clear sailing turning for home. Ortiz needed to keep this \$1.2 million colt focused with left-then right-handed encouragement through the lane, and

Tapwrit pretty much maintained a measured margin back to the rest of the stragglers while encountering no serious threats late.

"When I asked him between the half-mile and three-eighth poles, he let me know he was going to win the race right away," Ortiz said. "He's really scary, and I think he is going to keep improving." It's unlikely that we'll see any other serious Derby horses emerge from the Tampa



Tapwrit | Kenny Martin

Derby also-rans, and Tapwrit's stakes-record winning time (1:42.36) has to be assessed from the perspective that the track was playing glibly (three races earlier, an older Pletcher trainee established a new 1 1/16 miles track record of 1:41.75). But purely from a performance standpoint, Tapwrit showed he belongs, and can still progress further, within the top tier of Triple Crown hopefuls.

CATALOG UPDATE

HIP NO. 555

BRONZE AGE, 3YO half-brother by Mineshaft, went wire-to-wire to break his maiden going one mile at Santa Anita and earning a **93 Beyer Speed Figure**.

NEXT START: The \$800,000 Sunland Derby (G3)

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3. AMERICAN ANTHEM (c, [Bodemeister](#)--Indy's Windy, by A.P. Indy)

O-WinStar Farm, LLC, S F Bloodstock, LLC & China Horse Club.
 B-WinStar Farm (KY). T-Bob Baffert. Sales History: \$180,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$435,000 2yo '16 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: GSP, 2-1-1-0, \$51,200.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 3

Last Start: 2nd, [Gill Sham S.](#), SA, Jan. 7

Next start: [GII Rebel S.](#), OP, Mar. 18

[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [EquineLine PPs](#)

KY Derby Points: 4

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American Anthem (r) in the Sham | Benoit

American Anthem has posted three straight bullet workouts and has gone back to being equipped with blinkers for morning training (last month Baffert removed them to keep the colt from getting too headstrong between races), and he appears well-muscled and primed to uncork a big effort in this Saturday's Rebel S. On Mar. 11 he spotted older MGSW Mor Spirit (Eskendereya) two lengths on the back straight before engaging his mate on even terms at the quarter pole to finish nearly together under hand rides in 1:11.6 (1/15), but after the wire American Anthem had the reins shaken at him and was administered a couple of taps to respond with a little more gusto on the gallop out, which he did without hesitation. He'll ship to Oaklawn to try and win a Derby prep race that Baffert-trained horses have won in six of the past seven years, but it won't be a cakewalk. Unlike many of his West Coast peers, American Anthem has already showed he can handle being crowded a big field (he won his maiden against 11 rivals), and

NEW TRACK RECORD



Stanford

Multiple Graded Stakes-Winning Millionaire Stanford, purchased from King's Equine by Todd Pletcher on behalf of Stonestreet, Coolmore and Michael Tabor, romps in the Challenger Stakes at Tampa Bay setting a New Track Record - **1:41 3/5**



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the fact that he was pinned on the rail in the mud by a more experienced stakes winner and overcame that type of pressure to fight back and hold second in the Sham S. shows he can tough out difficult trips when he has to. I've been gambling by ranking such an inexperienced horse so highly all season, but a breakout performance this weekend can elevate American Anthem even higher.

4. GUNNEVERA (c, [Dialed In](#)--Unbridled Rage, by Unbridled)

O-Peacock Racing Stables, LLC. B-Brandywine Farm & Stephen Upchurch (KY). T-Antonio Sano. Sales History: \$16,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 8-4-2-0, \$1,075,200.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 4

Last Start: 1st, [GII Xpressbet Fountain of Youth S.](#), GP, Mar. 4

Accomplishments Include: 1st, [GIII Delta Downs Jackpot S.](#), DED, Nov. 19; 1st, [GII Saratoga Special S.](#), SAR, Aug. 14

Next start: [GI Florida Derby](#), GP, Apr. 1

[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [EquineLine PPs](#), [Caulfield on Gunnevera](#)

KY Derby Points: 64

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Altamira Stable Training Graduate - Julio Rada

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The overachieving Gunnevera is shaping up as a horse who isn't going to be anyone's flashy favorite, but he nearly always looms as a hard-trying threat, and you can be certain that jockeys competing against him in the near future will be cognizant of where he is at the back of the pack while trying to measure their moves against the solid, respectable kick of this confirmed deep closer. With eight races under his belt so far--including victories that have been as diverse as sprinting at Saratoga and closing from dead last over the three-quarter mile Delta Downs strip--seasoning won't be an issue. The nagging question for this \$16,000 yearling though, is "Has he already shown us his best?" Sure, Gunnevera's company lines are solid. Yet his running style means he's pace-dependent, and trying to project what might happen to a one-run grinder in the 20-horse Derby often evokes visions of traffic trouble. The Florida Derby will be his next test, and it's interesting to note that for a Gulfstream surface that has a reputation for being kind to early speed, the off-the-pace Gunnevera owns two wins and two seconds there from five starts.



Gunnevera | Adam Coglianese

5. PRACTICAL JOKE (c, [Into Mischief--Halo Humor](#), by [Distorted Humor](#))

O-Klaravich Stables, Inc. & William H. Lawrence. B-Whispering Oaks (KY). T-Chad C. Brown. Sales History: \$135,000 Ylg '15 KEEJAN; \$240,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MGISW, 5-3-0-1, \$815,800.
 Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 6
 Last Start: 2nd, [GII Xpressbet Fountain of Youth S.](#), GP, Mar. 4
 Accomplishments Include: 1st, [GI Hopeful S.](#), SAR, Sept. 5; 1st, [GI Champagne S.](#), BEL, Oct. 8.
 Next start: Uncommitted
[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [Equineline PPs](#)
 KY Derby Points: 34

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There aren't many two-time Grade I winners who qualify as "sleepers" at this stage of the Derby prep season, but the winner of last year's Hopeful S. and Champagne S. is aiming to prove that patience pays off so long as you peak when it counts. When second behind Gunnevera in the Fountain of Youth S., Practical Joke launched into a stout, eye-catching rally from the half-mile home that only had about three furlongs worth of clout behind

it, but that's perfectly fine in the grand scheme of things because he wasn't fully cranked to run down a tighter, more experienced foe coming off a three-month layoff. The chief beef against this chestnut remains that he has yet to win a two-turn race, but he did win a one-turn mile last October, and it's not like he was disgraced when third and second at 1 1/16 miles in subsequent starts (GI Breeders' Cup Classic, Fountain of Youth). Still, by the time he is next entered in one of the prep races that fall in early April, nine furlongs will be the standard for Triple Crown-bound 3-year-olds, and there will not be much room for pre-Derby tinkering if Practical Joke can't punch through with an emphatic showing at 1 1/8 miles.

6. MO TOWN (c, [Uncle Mo--Grazie Mille](#), by [Bernardini](#))

'TDN Rising Star' O-Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith & Team D. B-John D. Gunther & Eurowest Bloodstock (KY). T-Anthony W. Dutrow. Sales History: \$200,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-2-1-0, \$251,600.
 Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 7
 Last Start: 5th, [GII Risen Star S.](#), FG, Feb. 25
 Accomplishments Include: 1st, [GII Remsen S.](#), AQU, Nov. 26

Next start: Uncommitted
[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [Equineline PPs](#), [Caulfield on Mo Town](#)
 KY Derby Points: 10

There are three horses on this week's edition of the Top 12 that threw in absolute clunkers in their most recent races, yet they remain tethered to the list simply out of respect for previous accomplishments and as a hedge that they could blossom belatedly. Let's face it, if you abandon hope every time a young, developing colt regresses, you'll pretty quickly run out of contenders to critique, because not every Derby winner develops in linear, obvious fashion. This **'TDN Rising Star'** breezed for the first time last week since his Feb. 25 beaten-fave fifth in the Risen Star S., and trainer Dutrow believes there are legit reasons to ignore Mo Town's poor showing and focus forwardly. Although it was documented right after the race that the colt didn't seem to care for the surface, Dutrow has since revealed that Mo Town also "hit himself in both hind legs ... The horse has no history of hitting himself on any of the other racetracks he's been on. Back on the worktab [at Payson Park], he didn't hit himself." The Florida Derby, Blue Grass S., and Wood Memorial are all in play.

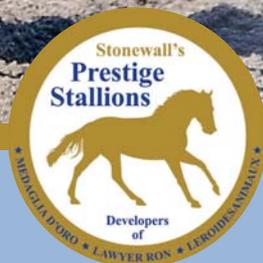


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7. ONE LINER (c, [Into Mischief--Cayala](#), by Cherokee Run)

O-WinStar Farm LLC, China Horse Club & SF Racing, LLC. B-Kingswood Farm (KY). T-Todd A. Pletcher. Sales History: \$150,000 Ylg '15 KEEJAN. Lifetime Record: GSW, 3-3-0-0, \$373,800.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 9

Last Start: 1st, [GIII Southwest S.](#), OP, Feb. 20

Next start: Uncommitted

[EquineLine PPs](#)

KY Derby Points: 10

Arrived & Thrived at Woodstock Farm

He's an athletic, still-maturing bay who has already earned an impressive triple digit (102) Beyer Speed Figure on the Triple Crown trail. It will be useful to get a read on his company line from that Southwest S. victory when a number of Oaklawn-based horses that finished behind One Liner run back in this weekend's Rebel S. He's 3-for-3 lifetime, and his connections thought so highly of him that they unveiled him on opening weekend at Saratoga last summer. He's stretched out incrementally in distance in each of his victories since then, but with lots of spacing between his races and likely only one more start prior to getting a shot in the Derby, one has to wonder if seasoning will be an issue leading up to the first Saturday in May.

8. IRISH WAR CRY (c, [Curlin--Irish Sovereign](#), by Polish Numbers)

'**TDN Rising Star**' O/B-Isabelle de Tomaso (NJ). T-H. G. Motion. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-3-0-0, \$299,460.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 10

Last Start: 7th, [GII Xpressbet](#)

[Fountain of Youth S.](#), GP, Mar. 4

Accomplishments: 1st, [GII](#)

[Lambholm South Holy Bull S.](#), GP, Feb. 4, 1st, [Marylander S.](#), LRL, Jan. 23

Next Start: Uncommitted

[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [EquineLine PPs](#), [Caulfield on Irish War Cry](#)

KY Derby Points: 10

Brookdale Raised for Isabelle de Tomaso
Another Webb Carroll Training Center Graduate

Still in regroup mode after firing a blank as the beaten favorite in the Mar. 4 Fountain of Youth S., this '**TDN Rising Star**' has speed to spare, but it will be trainer Motion's job to get him to



One Liner | Coady

relax and learn how to stalk effectively if Irish War Cry is to be a factor in the Triple Crown series. In the aftermath of this colt's first career defeat, Motion indicated he would likely not be running back in four weeks' time, so it will be interesting to see where and when this May 2 foal resurfaces. The talent is there, the timing is what's iffy as far as the Derby is concerned.

9. CLASSIC EMPIRE (c, [Pioneerof the Nile--Sambuca Classica](#), by Cat Thief)

O-John C. Oxley. B-Steven & Brandi Nicholson (KY). T-Mark E. Casse. Sales History: \$475,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo Colt, MGSW, 6-4-0-1, \$1,520,220.

Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 11

Last Start: 3rd, [GII Lambholm South Holy Bull S.](#), GP, Feb. 4

Accomplishments Include: 1st, [GI Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile](#), SA, Nov. 5, 1st, [GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity](#), KEE, Oct. 8; 1st, [GIII Bashford Manor S.](#), CD, July 2.

Next start: Possible for GII Blue Grass S., KEE, Apr. 8

[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [EquineLine PPs](#), [Caulfield on Classic Empire](#)

KY Derby Points: 32

Warrendale Sold, Congratulations To All The Connections

The juvenile champ's foot abscess has cleared up. His mysterious back issue seems to have been resolved. The 1-2 punch of those combined problems has been offered as an explanation for Classic Empire's underwhelming third in the Feb. 4 Holy Bull S. and an abrupt, on-track cancellation of a planned Mar. 3 workout. Now, after breezing a half mile in :48.95 (3/34) in company with MGSW Airoforce (Colonel John) Sunday at Palm Meadows, it appears as if Classic Empire is moving forward to reassert himself as a top Derby contender, with the

Apr. 8 Blue Grass S. as his next planned prep. "He's been doing extremely well since we had the doctor come and look at him and work on his back," Casse told *TDN* after the workout. "If we're going to make the Kentucky Derby, it's going to be through the Blue Grass. We feel like we still have three more works with him, as long as he continues to do well. We're not going to push it--if it works, it works. If it doesn't, we know we have a really good horse. We're not going to sacrifice him just to make the Blue Grass or the Derby. But right now, if things continue down the path that he's on, we're happy and we'll keep going forward."

DARE TO DREAM

Colt o/o Career Fair | Bred by Keene Ridge Racing, LLC



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10. J BOYS ECHO (c, [Mineshaft--Letgomyecho](#), by Menifee)
'TDN Rising Star' O-Albaugh Family Stable. B-Betz/Blackburn/J. Betz/Ramsby/CNHHNK (KY). T-Dale L. Romans. Sales History: \$485,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 5-2-1-1, \$299,600.
 Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: 12
 Last Start: 1st, [Gill Gotham S.](#), AQU, Mar. 4
 Next start: Probable for Gil Blue Grass S., KEE, Apr. 8
[EquineLine PPs](#), [Caulfield on J Boys Echo](#)
 KY Derby Points: 53

Barry Berkelhammer 352•804•3000



J Boys Echo | Sarah K. Andrew

There was no shortage of speculation after this **'TDN Rising Star'** won the Gotham S. about how his victory was aided by a favorable trip. But trainer Romans brought up an equally good counterpoint last week on "At the Races With Steve Byk" when he noted that J Boys Echo encountered significant trouble in all four of his previous career races. His comment lines are dotted with trouble calls like "slow start," "steadied," "ducked in," and "wide first turn," leading Romans to declare that the Gotham win was "the first pure, clean trip I think he's ever had." J Boys Echo flew to New York, but vanned back to Florida after his 102 Beyer Speed Figure win, and Romans outlined the game plan from here on out: "In a perfect world, the best strategy for us would probably be to train [at Gulfstream] up to about 10 days before the Blue Grass and then ship to Kentucky and get him ready to run in the Blue Grass 70 miles from home. Then he'd come back home to Churchill Downs, for Derby Day." Although the competition in the Blue Grass is likely to be far tougher than what he's faced so far, the nine furlongs shouldn't be an issue, because this son of Mineshaft (A.P. Indy) has been running in nothing but 1 1/16-mile races since lifetime start number two back in October.

11. ROYAL MO (c, [Uncle Mo--Royal Irish Lass](#), by Saint Ballado)
 O-Mr. & Mrs. Jerome S. Moss. B-Brandywine Farm (KY). T-John A. Shirreffs. Sales History: \$300,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-2-2-0, \$144,200.
 Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: N/A
 Last Start: 1st, [Gill Robert B. Lewis S.](#), SA, Feb. 4
 Next start: Gil Rebel S., OP, Mar. 18
[EquineLine PPs](#)
 KY Derby Points: 10

BRED & RAISED by *Jim & Pam Robinson*
MCKATHAN BROTHERS Training Graduate

It took Royal Mo three starts to break his maiden, and even though he did so fairly capably at Del Mar going a mile in November, the competition was edging closer at the end. The long-striding, tall (nearly 17 hands) colt subsequently progressed during morning training though, and he showed a new dimension winning the Lewis S. at 1 1/16 miles by establishing the lead from post one and repelling a stalking challenger to open up by 3 1/2 lengths at the wire. As trainer Shirreffs put it, "he made an effort, but made it look effortless." Now a highly competitive Rebel S. assignment awaits, and it will be intriguing from a pace perspective to see where Royal Mo is positioned early on in this race. His last two running lines might be deceptive in that they make him look like he wants or needs the lead, but he was twice second while coming from farther back sprinting as a juvenile in several productive maiden races (once while forcing the issue from midpack, another time closing from twelfth), and a patient tactical approach could be a good match for his late-maturing, athletic way of going.

12. GIRVIN (c, [Tale of Ekati--Catch the Moon](#), by Malibu Moon)
 O-Brad Grady. B-Bob Austin & John Witte (KY). T-Joe Sharp. Sales History: \$140,000 RNA Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$130,000 Ylg '15 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: GSW, 3-2-1-0, \$274,400.
 Mar. 7 TDN Top 12 Rank: N/A
 Last Start: 1st, [Gill Risen Star S.](#), FG, Feb. 25
 Next start: Gil Louisiana Derby, FG, Apr. 1
[Thoro-Graph sheet](#), [EquineLine PPs](#)
 KY Derby Points: 50

LEGACY *Bloodstock* **Congrats breeders Bob & Alice Austin & Buyers/Owners Bobby Dodd & Brad Grady**

Girvin resurfaces on the list this week, taking aim on the Apr. 1 Louisiana Derby with his first workout since posting an 8-1 upset under extremely favorable pace and positional conditions in the Feb. 25 Risen Star S. at Fair Grounds. Former jockey Rosie Napravnik was aboard for Saturday's :49 half-mile breeze (19/86), finishing about on even terms with stakes-winning

get speed with Creed.

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– David Scanlon



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stablemate Cool Arrow (Into Mischief). It's difficult to get a true line on his Fair Grounds form considering the two legitimate faves in the Risen Star were essentially no-shows while Girvin coasted home unchallenged. But he does have the makings of a versatile sort considering he's won sprinting, was beaten less than a length going a mile on the grass against stakes foes, then stretched out willingly on dirt to 1 1/16 miles. The way the Derby trail is shaping up so far this season, just being consistent with incremental improvement might be enough to stand a horse in good stead when the first Saturday in May rolls around. Girvin may have won with a "gift" trip in the Risen Star, but that doesn't mean he requires one. If he can channel his current consistency into an ability to overcome adversity at nine furlongs against graded-stakes company, look out.

On the Bubble:

Battle of Midway (Smart Strike), who earned 'TDN Rising Star' status off a sharp Jan. 21 maiden win, but then ran third at 4-5 in the GII San Vicente S., will now be aimed at the GI Santa Anita



Battle of Midway | Benoit

Derby after a first-level, 1 1/16-mile allowance score at Santa Anita Mar. 9 ... Santa Anita is reporting that the second- and third-place horses left in the wake of the brilliant but injured Mastery's

scintillating GII San Felipe S score Saturday are both in the mix for the Santa Anita Derby. **Iliad** (Ghostzapper) was giving his all, but truly looked like he was in another league while trying to reel in the runaway winner, and **Term of Art** (Tiznow)'s effort was strictly an overmatched, pick-up-the-pieces try. The race came back with a 105 Beyer Speed Figure, the highest of any Triple Crown prep race so far (there have been three previous 102 ratings) ... It wouldn't be a surprise if **Gormley** (Malibu Moon), who was a well-positioned stalker but cracked under the San Felipe pace pressure, also resurfaced in the signature 3-year-old race over his home track.

'TDN Rising Star' **Battalion Runner** (Unbridled's Song), a 1-5 allowance winner going long at Gulfstream Feb. 3, is pointing for the Florida Derby. "The main thing we are focused on now is making sure that we do enough with him while he has the added time between races to have him fit and ready to go the mile and the eighth," trainer Todd Pletcher said. "We're trying to keep him fresh and healthy, but also we know we have to be ready to

go Apr. 1. I think the way he handled the stretch from seven [furlongs] to a mile and a sixteenth encouraged me that he will take that next step forward in distance." **Always Dreaming** (Bodemeister), a colt that is owned by a partnership that includes the same owners of Battalion Runner, also has an outside chance at taking a shot in the Florida Derby after wiring a Gulfstream allowance race on the Fountain of Youth S.



Battalion Runner | Leslie Martin

undercard. "We also talked about the Florida Derby with Always Dreaming, who came out of the allowance win well, but it's not likely we would run the two of them against each other," said Pletcher in reference to Battalion Runner. "But depending upon the size of the field we might consider entering them both in case one of them drew an unfavorable post. But that's for down the road, when we have more information about how many starters there might be."

A Mar. 10 bullet five-eighths in :58.80 (1/39) by Oaklawn-based **Uncontested** (Tiz Wonderful), has caused his connections to reconsider this Saturday's Rebel S. Last week it was reported that this 'TDN Rising Star' would be on hold until the Apr. 15 GI Arkansas Derby, but he's now "highly probable" to show up in the Rebel field when entries are taken on Wednesday. "The way he came back, he wasn't winded at all," co-owner Harry Rosenblum said of his mud-loving Smarty Jones S. winner, who galloped out six furlongs in 1:10.60 and seven in 1:24.80 ... **'Rising Stars' Untrapped** (Trappe Shot), second in both the Risen Star S. and the GIII Lecomte S., and **Malagacy** (Shackleford), a 2-for-2 sprinter, are also likely Rebel entrants. Among the Oaklawn-based contingent of Rebel aspirants are the second- through fourth-place finishers out of the Southwest S.--**Petrov** (Flatter), **Lookin At Lee** (Lookin At Lucky), and **Silver Dust** (Tapit)--plus recent maiden-breaker **Silver Bullion** (Pioneerof the Nile).

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EASTERN U.S.

Monday's Results:

8th-PRX, \$40,400, (S), Alw, 3-13, (NW1BX), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:39.88, ft.

MOE TROUBLE (c, 4, [Uncle Mo](#)--Sunup {SP, \$152,090}, by Smart Strike) finished a distant second in his local career bow Dec. 3 and graduated next out against Pennsylvania-breds Dec. 20 before running fifth in a sloppy open allowance Jan. 24. Made the 11-10 chalk here, the homebred broke alertly to dictate terms through soft splits of :25.44 and :50.14. Starting to inch clear at the three-furlong marker, the bay drew off by the top of the lane and won well wrapped up by five lengths. T. J. Goodie (Oratory) completed the exacta. Moe Trouble is a half to You Need Me (Indian Charlie), MSW, \$294,505. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$61,730. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O/B-Michael W. Jester (PA); T-Mario Serey, Jr.

CENTRAL U.S.

Monday's Results:

GROOVY S., \$50,000, HOU, 3-13, (S), 3yo, 6f, 1:11.35, ft.

1--RUMPOLE, 122, g, 3, Too Much Bling--Dehere's Dream, by Dehere. O/B-Fletcher Properties, Inc. (TX); T-Robert A. Young; J-David Cabrera. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: MSW, 5-3-0-0, \$82,470.

2--Contrarytoordinary, 118, c, 3, Valid Expectations--Frieda Frau, by Shaquin. O-Danny Pish & Dennis E. Foster; B/T-Danny Pish (TX). \$10,000.

3--Shaded, 122, c, 3, Too Much Bling--Fast Find, by Mineshaft. (\$36,000 2yo '16 TTAAPR). O-Clark O. Brewster; B-W. S. Farish (TX); T-Steven M. Asmussen. \$5,500.

Margins: 1 3/4, 1 1/4, 4. Odds: 0.20, 6.80, 6.20.

Also Ran: Imma Wild Bling, Too Much Gone, My Expectations.

Rumpole dominated his well-bet debut against Texas-breds Oct. 22 at Retama, but was off the board in a pair of open stakes tries, running fifth in a division of the Clarence Scharbauer, Jr. Texas Stallion S. Nov. 5 and fourth in the track-and-trip Space City S. Jan. 29. Romping in the restricted Jim's Orbit S. here Feb. 18, the gray was crushed in the wagering to repeat in this

spot and broke alertly to show the way through a :22.97 quarter. Widening into the turn, Rumpole was challenged earnestly by Contrarytoordinary at the five-sixteenths pole and dug in gamely in the final furlong to turn that foe back. The winner's dam foaled a filly by Grasshopper last season before being bred back to Too Much Bling. [Click for the Equibase.com chart.](#)

SPIRIT OF TEXAS S., \$50,000, HOU, 3-13, (S), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10.58, ft.

1--BRAVURA, 118, c, 4, Early Flyer--Coryphee, by Hadif.

O/B-Victoria Ashford (TX); T-W. Bret Calhoun; J-Deshawn L. Parker. \$30,000. Lifetime Record: 11-5-3-1, \$179,752. *1/2 to Triumph and Song (My Golden Song), MSW, \$309,020.

2--Reflector, 118, h, 6, Ready's Image--Passionate Dancer, by Cat Thief. (\$20,000 Ylg '12 KEESSEP). O-Jacques Miramon Racing LLC; B-John T. L. Jones (TX); T-Karl Broberg. \$10,000.

3--Supermason, 118, g, 5, Grasshopper--Folksy, by Midway Road. (\$25,000 Ylg '13 TEXAUG). O-Brad Grady; B-W. S. Farish & E.J. Hudson, Jr. Irrevocable Trust (TX); T-W. Bret Calhoun. \$5,500.

Margins: 2 3/4, 1 3/4, NK. Odds: 1.20, 7.30, 2.10.

Also Ran: A M Milky Way, Valid Nick, Meme Jo, Turn Up the Lights. Scratched: Solar Charge.

Bravura captured both the Groovy S. and Jim's Orbit S. on this oval last winter, but went unseen for 8 1/2 months before



Bravura | Coady Photography

running sixth in a Delta allowance Nov. 5. A distant second last out to 'TDN Rising Star' Union Jackson (Curlin) in the Sam Houston Sprint Cup S. Feb. 11, the chestnut was made a clear favorite to get back on track here and set up

three-deep in third through a :22.53 quarter. Poking his head in front passing a half in :45.82, Bravura kicked clear by the eighth pole and strode away to a convincing tally. Reflector rallied from last to get second money. The winner's dam produced a colt by Silver City named Shifty Henry last spring. [Click for the Equibase.com chart.](#)

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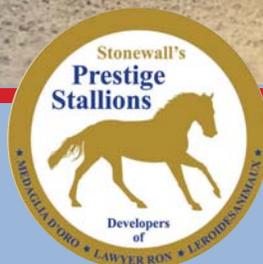
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8th-HOU, \$20,000, Alw, 3-13, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 5fT, :59.23, fm.

SONIC RUN (f, 4, Song of the Sword--Millenium Beauty, by New Way) checked in fourth against Oklahoma-breds on debut Aug. 17 at Remington before upsetting at 20-1 there Sept. 8 and running third in a state-bred allowance Oct. 12. Given a 14-5 chance in this first try against open company and first spin over turf, the dark bay tracked the pace from the pocket in third through a :22.70 quarter. Swinging three-deep at the top of the stretch, she swept past the pace players at the sixteenth pole and edged clear to score by 2 1/2 lengths over Runner Loose (Dr. Mojo). The victress is a half to Yukonrun (Lucky Lionel), SP, \$215,147. Her dam has a 2-year-old Line of David colt named Oklahoma Line and she was bred to Mister Lucky Cat last term. Sales History: \$6,000 2yo '15 HEROCT. Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-1, \$43,417. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).**

O-Larry Darter; B-Cowboy Stables,LLC (OK); T-Mindy J. Willis.

1st-MVR, \$26,300, (S), Msw, 3-13, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.54, ft. +ENTA THE CIRCLE (c, 3, Archarcharch--Ela Enta {GB}, by Royal Applause {GB}), given a 29-10 shot to graduate on debut here, tracked the pace from second through a :23.38 quarter and cruised to the lead in hand past a :46.68 half. Called on at the top of the lane, the dark bay steadily drew clear in the stretch to romp by seven lengths. Marco's Abyss (Mister Phone {Arg}) was clearly second-best. The victor's dam was bred back to his sire last term. Sales History: \$11,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$15,780. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#).** O-Keys to Riches Stable; B-Peter J. Sheppell (OH); T-Shane Meyers.

 Another Big Fish from **BLUEWATER**

Hawthorne Joins NTRA:

Hawthorne Race Course, the nation's fourth-oldest racetrack, located in the Chicagoland townships of Cicero and Stickney, has joined the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), it was announced Monday. Hawthorne has emerged as one of the leading destinations for NTRA National Handicapping Championship (NHC) qualifying contests in recent years and will further expand on that position through discounted NTRA member pricing.

"This year has really been a year of change at Hawthorne, in a good way, and part of those changes include our return to the NTRA," said Tim Carey, Hawthorne President and General Manager. "We are off to a great start for the racing season as handle has grown due to our later post and support of our horsemen in the entry box."

Hawthorne's Spring Meet is highlighted by the return of the GIII Illinois Derby Apr. 22.

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FLORIDA

Prayer For Relief to Stand at Pleasant Acres:

Zayat Stables' four-time graded stakes winner **Prayer for Relief** (Jump Start--Sparklin Lil, by Mr. Sparkles), earner of \$2,277,948, will join the stallion roster at Joe and Helen Barbazon's Pleasant Acres Stallion in Morriston, Florida for the 2017 season, it was announced Monday. The dark bay, who compiled a record of 8-6-10 from 46 lifetime starts, will stand for a fee of \$3,500.

"We are very happy to have this fine individual here at Pleasant Acres Stallions," said Joe Barbazon. "He retired sound, is the winner of over \$2.2 million, and I fully intend to breed some of my own mares to him. We are happy to welcome the Zayat family and stables to Pleasant Acres Stallions."

Prayer For Relief began his career as a 2-year-old in July 2010 and competed almost exclusively in stakes company until his retirement earlier this year. He won the GIII Iowa Derby, GII West Virginia Derby and GII Super Derby in 2011 and the GIII Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H. in 2013.

For more information, visit the Pleasant Acres website.

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SEVENTH ANNUAL FLORIDA DERBY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT - TUESDAY, MAR. 28

The tournament, which benefits the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund and Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care, is now open for registration at a price of \$175/person or \$750/foursome. The tournament begins at 12 noon, with assorted prizes to top groups. For more information, contact Jennifer Vitrella at 954-457-6186.

INDUSTRY INFO

NYRA Expands Partnership With FOX Sports, Claiborne to Sponsor:

The New York Racing Association (NYRA) has expanded its partnership with FOX Sports, which will result in additional live shows broadcast across all three NYRA-operated tracks, it was announced Monday. In total, 46 live shows are scheduled to be shown on FS2, covering racing from Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga. The partnership will build on the successful debut of *Saratoga Live* in 2016.

"We are thrilled to expand on last year's schedule and partner with FOX to bring more coverage of the best racing in the country," said Tony Allevato, President of NYRA Bets and

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FS2 will broadcast three live Saturday shows in April from Aqueduct, starting on Wood Memorial Day, Apr. 8 from 3-5:30 p.m ET., along with shows Apr. 15 and 22. *Belmont Park Live* will debut on Saturday, Apr. 29, with additional shows scheduled for May 27, Memorial Day (May 29), June 3 and June 24. *Saratoga Live* is slated to feature 36 shows in 2017, expanding on its well-received 2016 campaign that saw NYRA produce 80 hours of live racing telecasts that aired nationally on FOX Sports.

Storied Claiborne Farm is the presenting sponsor of the NYRA Live programming, which will also feature live coverage of selected stakes races from outside New York.

“We are excited to be the presenting sponsor of NYRA's national broadcasts, and look forward to another year of outstanding coverage of thoroughbred racing across New York's finest tracks,” said Walker Hancock, Claiborne Farm's managing director.

The broadcast team for NYRA's live programming will include NYRA TV handicapper Andy Serling, host Greg Wolf, paddock reporter Maggie Wolfendale, former champion jockey Richard Migliore, and track announcer Larry Collmus. Trainer Tom Amoss and analyst Gabby Gaudet will again join the team for the 2017 Saratoga meet.

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Thoroughbred Incentive Program Announces 2016 Performance Award Winners:

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP), which encourages the retraining of Thoroughbreds into other disciplines upon completion of their careers in racing or breeding, announced the winners from its 2016 performance awards program Monday. The performance awards recognize Thoroughbreds accumulating the most points at all horse shows in each of the award categories and divisions throughout the year. In 2016, performance awards were given in 13 categories broken into 77 divisions.

“We received applications representing 423 Thoroughbreds competing in more than 8,000 classes and divisions during the 2016 award year,” said Kristin Leshney, senior counsel for The Jockey Club and the administrator of T.I.P. “Winners will receive ribbons, prize money and a variety of prizes, including coolers, saddle pads, quarter sheets and jackets.”

Performance awards will be available once again in 2017 and will include shows from Dec. 1, 2016, through Nov. 30, 2017. The deadline for submission is Dec. 20. For the complete list of winners, visit the TJCTIP [website](#).

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ARTFUL RUN (Artie Schiller), 1/0/0

3-SUN, Msw 5 1/2f, +Artful Arion, 9-2

MCKENNA'S JUSTICE (Medaglia d'Oro), 13/2/0

8-SUN, Alw 5 1/2f, McEve, 8-1

MR. GOLD MOVER (Mr. Greeley), Bar Y Equine, 36/3/0

8-SUN, Alw 5 1/2f, Que Pasa, 3-1

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IN JAPAN:

Banquet Square, c, 3, **Bellamy Road**--Cathy's Love (Jpn), by A.P.Indy. Chukyo, 3-11, Alw, 6f. Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-0, \$98,261 O/B-Dr. Masatake Iida (KY); T-Eiichi Yano.

Glitter Tesoro, c, 3, **Into Mischief**--Alike, by Grand Slam. Nakayama, 3-11, Alw, 6f. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, \$54,783. O-Kenji Ryotokuji; B-Steve Holliday; T-Ryo Takei. *\$32,000 RNA Wlg '14 KEENOV; \$40,000 Ylg '15 FTKOCT; \$100,000 2yo '16 BARMAR.

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Matera Sky, c, 3, **Speightstown**--Mostaqeleh (GSP-Fr), by Rahy. Hanshin, 3-11, Alw, 6f. Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-0, \$167,281.

O-Tsuyoshi Ono; B-Lynch Bages Ltd; T-Hideyuki Mori. *\$140,000 Wlg '14 KEENOV; \$350,000 Ylg '15 KESEP. **1/2 to Nawwaar (Distorted Humor), MSW-UAE, \$299,823; Raagheb (Street Cry {Ire}), MSP, \$205,959.

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BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-FG, \$44,040, 3-13, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10.74, ft.
NEWFOUND GOLD (g, 10, Newfoundland--Binntastic, by Lyphard's Wish {Fr}) Lifetime Record: 57-22-16-9, \$346,609. O/T-Michelle Lovell; B-Fernbrook Farm (KY). *\$1,000 Wlg '07 KEENOV; \$9,500 RNA Ylg '08 WASSEP.

8th-WRD, \$31,350, 3-13, (NW26MX), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:09.96, my.

DEVIOUS RUMOR (m, 6, Street Boss--Gracinha, by Siphon {Brz}) Lifetime Record: SW, 21-12-3-1, \$210,026. O-Doyle Williams; B-Rendell Saddler (OK); T-Scott E. Young. *\$30,000 Wlg '11 KEENOV.

7th-MVR, \$27,100, (S), 3-13, (NW2LX), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.43, ft.
COINCIDENTALLY (g, 3, Super Saver--Willful Ways, by Sharp Humor) Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, \$40,245. O/B-WinStar Farm, LLC & Blazing Meadows Farm LLC (OH); T-Timothy E. Hamm.



ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Rockin Rah Rah, f, 3, Jonesboro--Eyesuponyea, by Storm and a Half. WRD, 3-13, 5 1/2f, 1:06.66. B-Ray & Helen Dixon (AR).

Medieval Medicine, g, 3, Oratory--Lady Primal (SW), by Primal Storm. HOU, 3-13, (S), 1m 70y, 1:45.54. B-Justin Williams (TX).

Sing Sing Baby, g, 4, Sing Baby Sing--Real Amiga, by El Prado (Ire). HOU, 3-13, 5fT, 1:00.13. B-James W. King (TX).

Speightsfire, m, 5, Speightstown--Freudenau, by Meadowlake. HOU, 3-13, 6f, 1:13.37. B-Jake Lantaff & Epona LLC (KY). *\$125,000 Ylg '13 FTKJUL; \$15,000 4yo '16 KEENOV. **Won by nine lengths.

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Moe Trouble (Uncle Mo) cruises in a Parx allowance



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Tecnica (Arch) shows off her Feb. 10 colt by Maclean's Music at Amende Place in Paris, KY. The colt is owned by Randy Faulkner and Glenn Atkinson. | Teresa Faulkner

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UNDER ORDERS FOR JUMPS RACING'S BIGGEST WEEK



Cue Card after his win in the 2013 Ryanair Chase | *Racing Post*

By Emma Berry

The TDN's international racing coverage is usually focused strictly on Flat racing, but we'll be making an exception this week to bring you daily round-ups of events from the Cheltenham Festival, colloquially known as National Hunt racing's Olympics.

While jump racing may be very much a second-tier sport in many of the world's racing nations, in Britain, Ireland and France the 'winter game' matters hugely. Its increasing popularity is underscored by the fact that sums of money that wouldn't look out of place at Book 1 of Tattersalls' October Yearling Sale now regularly change hands for potentially top-class jumping prospects. In fact, at last season's Horses-in-Training Sale, the underbidders at 500,000gns on the top lot, Harlem (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}), were Joe Tizzard and agent Tom Malone. Tizzard's father Colin has been robbed of his Festival star this time around with last year's G1 World Hurdle winner Thistlecrack (GB) (Kayf Tara {GB}) ruled out through injury, but even after that setback the trainer still has two of the top three in the betting, Cue Card (GB) (King's Theatre {Ire}) and Native River (Ire) (Indian River {Fr}), for Friday's showcase, the £575,000 G1 Timico Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Cont. p2

AWESOME ROCK RETIRED

Group 1 winner **Awesome Rock (Aus)** (Fastnet Rock {Aus}--Awesome Planet {Aus}, by Giant's Causeway) has been retired from racing and will be prepared for a career as a stallion. The 5-year-old has performed below expectations on his three runs this year and trainers Leon and Troy Corstens believe a vaccination administered a month ago for a potential trip to the Dubai Carnival had an adverse effect on the horse's well-being. "He hasn't quite been the same horse since he was vaccinated," Leon Corstens told *Racing And Sports*. "It seemed to flatten him and I just think it's all caught up with him." This time last year Awesome Rock opened his account at the top level when winning the G1 Australian Cup only for him to lose the race in the steward's room following interference with Preferment (NZ) (Zabeel {NZ}) who was subsequently awarded the race. **Cont. p9**

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

MAJOR PLAYERS IN TOWN FOR OBS MARCH

Brian DiDonato & Steve Sherack are on-site in Ocala to preview the OBS March Sale, which gets underway Tuesday. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

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 WEATHERBYS

Enduring Presence...

When Cue Card steps onto the track on Friday, it will be his fifth appearance at the Festival. The enormously popular chaser burst onto the scene back in 2010 when, as a 4-year-old, he sprinted clear up the Cheltenham hill to win the G1 Weatherbys Champion Bumper by eight lengths on only his second racecourse start. Fourth in the following year's G1 Stan James Supreme Novices' Hurdle and then beaten only by the outstanding Sprinter Sacre (Fr) (Network {Ger}) in the G1 Racing Post Arkle Trophy a year later, he was back in the top spot in 2013 when winning the G1 Ryanair Chase. Cue Card missed out on two subsequent Festivals and fell when in contention for last year's Gold Cup. The people's favourite, now 11 and owned by octogenarian Jean Bishop, is right back at the top of his game this year and would reduce grown men to tears should he prevail in the week's most prestigious contest.

Jumpers are every bit as fragile as Flat horses, and there's been a rash of disappointing Festival scratchings through injury in the last few weeks, but the longevity of some of the big names goes a long way to ensuring that National Hunt racing has an ever-increasing legion of fans who support particular horses in the way they would football teams. Cue Card is one of eight dual Festival winners returning to Cheltenham this week, including the exceptional Douvan (Fr) (Walk In The Park {Ire}), 2014 Gold Cup winner Lord Windermere (Ire) (Oscar {Ire}) and

Cause Of Causes (Dyaformer), a half-brother to Derby winner Kris Kin (Kris S).

Dual-Purpose Specialists...

Today's feature race is the G1 Stan James Champion Hurdle, won last year by the mare Annie Power (Ire) (Shirocco {Ger}), who is one of a number of high-profile absentees this time around. **Cont. p3**



Annie Power | Racing Post

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Cheltenham Cont.

While she never actually raced under Flat rules, Annie Power was initially trained by Jim Bolger and won her first two bumper starts for the master of Coolcullen before being switched to Ireland's champion jumps trainer Willie Mullins.

With top-class German influences on both sides of her pedigree, Annie Power is but one of a number of Champion Hurdlers who were destined originally for the Flat but have made their names in the unforgiving contest which requires not just stamina and jumping ability but a lightning turn of foot.

Two of the outstanding hurdlers of the modern era--Istabraq (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) and Hurricane Fly (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire})--were both dual winners on the level before accruing 36 Grade 1 hurdle victories, including five Champion Hurdles, between them.

Arguably the classiest Champion Hurdle winner of all time was Sheikh Mohammed's Royal Gait (GB) (Gunner B {GB}), who controversially lost the 1988 G1 Ascot Gold Cup in the stewards' room after passing the post first in record time under Cash Asmussen. Having joined James Fanshawe, he won at Cheltenham a little less than five years later.

This year the Champion Hurdle field includes a Classic winner, Wicklow Brave (GB) (Beat Hollow {GB}), who got the better of Order Of St George (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in last year's G1 Irish St Leger but has also triumphed at the Cheltenham Festival, having won the G3 Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle two years ago.

By Royal Appointment...

Royal Gait was the second Champion Hurdle winner in Sheikh Mohammed's famous maroon-and-white silks, with the Sir Michael Stoute-trained Kribensis having obliged in 1990. It may not be long before we see another sheikh in the winner's enclosure at Cheltenham, as Sheikh Fahad Al Thani, no doubt encouraged by hunting fanatic and Gloucestershire local David Redvers, has been taking an increasing interest in jump racing.

[Cont. p4](#)



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Willie Mullins, Sheikh Fahad and Harold Kirk | Goffs UK



DISCOVER GREATNESS

LEADING SIRES of **Stakeswinners**

in Australia over the last 30 years

26	Danehill	2001/02
21	Danehill	2002/03
21	Danehill	2004/05
19	SNITZEL	2016/17 <i>*to date</i>
17	Danehill	2005/06
17	Flying Spur	2006/07
17	Exceed And Excel	2012/13



Cheltenham Cont.

The sheikh has already been represented in the last two runnings of the Foxhunter Chase--a Gold Cup equivalent for amateur riders--by Current Event (Fr) (Muthathir {GB}) and this time around he has the favourite for tomorrow's G1 Weatherbys Champion Bumper in Carter McKay (GB) (Martaline {GB}), trained by Willie Mullins.

The 6-year-old may not be the only regally-owned runner this week, as The Queen looks set to be represented in Friday's G1 JCB Triumph Hurdle by her homebred Forth Bridge (GB) (Bernardini). The youngster is another to have started life on the Flat and won over a mile and a half last summer for Michael Bell before moving to Charlie Longsdon's stable.

Boutique Sales On The Rise...

The desire of some of the sport's wealthiest owners to find Cheltenham horses has led to a niche market of boutique jumping sales. Brightwells, which has now become part of Tattersalls Ireland, began by hosting a number of post-racing auctions on some of Cheltenham's quieter racing days before launching a Festival Sale back in 2014. Last year's event offered an unraced full-sister to Thistlecrack who sold for £165,000 just hours after her brother had stormed to Grade 1 glory. This Thursday's sale, which takes place in the parade ring after racing and features 22 lots, includes a half-sister to Champion Hurdle contender The New One (Ire) (King's Theatre {Ire}).

Aintree's Grand National meeting now also features a sale, this one hosted for the first time last year by Goffs UK. It has the chance of a high-profile winner this week in the aforementioned £160,000 purchase Carter McKay.



The New One | *Racing Post*


ARROWFIELD
Inglis Easter Yearling Sale
Pedigree Update

Lot 206
Redoute's Choice
filly

Full sister to 3YO
filly EXTRA OLIVES
2nd in Gr.3. VRC Vanity
Stakes

www.arrowfield.com.au

Flying High...

The Cheltenham Festival may take place in the heart of the Cotswolds, but for this week you're just as likely to hear Irish accents as English voices in the surrounding villages.

Ryanair schedules an extra 30 flights between Dublin and Birmingham to cater for around 20,000 extra customers who play their part in contributing £100 million in benefit to the local Gloucestershire economy during the week of racing.



Leading owners Rich Ricci and Michael O'Leary are likely to be among the winners this week | *Racing Post*

It's not all one-way traffic for the airline, however, as Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary is one of the biggest supporters of Irish jump racing through his powerful Gigginstown House Stud string. O'Leary won last year's Gold Cup with Don Cossack (Ger) (Sholokhov {Ire}), but is yet to win his own race, Thursday's G1 Ryanair Chase, in which he has the strongly fancied Empire Of Dirt (Ire) (Westerner {GB}). **Cont. p5**

THE FRENCH ANGLE

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AQPS

The French Chaser

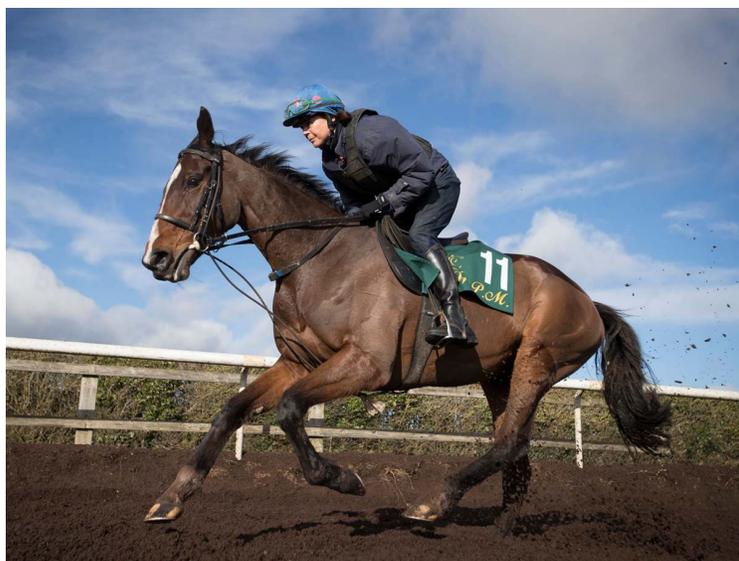
AQPS: The Pride Of French Jumping...

Every day this week, our French correspondent Emmanuel Roussel will highlight the performances of the special breed of French jumpers which are now as prevalent in Britain and Ireland as they are on their home racecourses.

Most jump racing fans in Britain and Ireland have seen and applauded AQPS horses without knowing it. Ever heard of Nupsala (Fr), The Fellow (Fr), Algan (Fr), Quevega (Fr), Sprinter Sacre (Fr)? Or how about this year's big Cheltenham Festival hopes Vroum Vroum Mag (Fr) or Defi du Seuil (Fr)? All of them have played their part in putting AQPS breeding firmly in the spotlight in recent decades.

AQPS is an acronym for 'autres que pur-sang', meaning 'other than thoroughbred'. They have long been referred to as non-thoroughbreds by British breeding and racing institutions but although that is the correct translation, it does not properly reflect the selection process that AQPS breeders have worked on for the last 100 years or so.

They have created a breed solely aimed at jumps racing almost from scratch, in a way that recalls the early stages of thoroughbred breeding in England. Only that rather than the Newmarket Plate, the Ascot Gold Cup or the Epsom Derby, the benchmark was either the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris at Auteuil or the Grand Cross de Craon in the West of rural France. Hence the international nickname promoted by the AQPS Breeders and Owners Association: 'The French Chaser'.



Vroum Vroum Mag | *Racing Post*



Sprinter Sacre | *Racing Post*

As usual, it all started with mares. Early in the 20th Century, breeders in the West of France and in the Burgundy area used to provide proper draft horses for the army. Horses were useful in many ways, first for transport and work. The boundaries between racing, eventing and utility horses were more blurred then than they are now. Some horses were actually doing pretty well for most of these purposes, if not all of them: a well conformed dam could take you to mass in style on Sunday, then proceed to the local cross-country event, and go fetch the doctor in the middle of the night. They were the stylish SUVs of the times.

Their owners were happy to keep such saddle horses, whether they were listed as 'Selle Francais', 'Chevaux de selle' or even 'Anglo-Arabs', and mate them to finer animals, mostly thoroughbreds (Formula 1 cars, if you will), to get even faster, more stylish SUVs. The resulting mix was referred to as AQPS, and the brand stuck.

People in France don't go to mass that much any more, and the doctor is on the internet. But these fine SUVs keep on running and jumping with style, speed and stamina, so people now come from all over Europe--even from America--to buy their own and take them to Auteuil, Cheltenham or you name it to win a Gold Cup. Because even though half of the 400 AQPS-restricted races in France are over the flat, they are bred to jump.

Since the earliest success of AQPS horses at Auteuil back in the 1950s, the breed has thrived and the breeders have become more and more professional. The AQPS association that represents them plays a large part in the French racing institutions. About 1,000 AQPS foals are born every season, half of them evenly distributed in Burgundy and Pays de Loire. All of them are named with the same initial letter every year. The 11-year old AQPS horses--such as Sprinter Sacre and Silviniaco Conti (Fr)--all have names starting with S, for instance, contrary to the more or less 5,000 thoroughbreds born in France 11 years ago. [Cont. p6](#)

Cheltenham Cont.

Since 2005, one can also breed AQPS anywhere in UK and Ireland, since Weatherbys has now recognised the breed and established a stud book that year. And now you know why the term 'non-thoroughbred' doesn't really do the AQPS horse justice.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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www.destinationeuropereading.com

DANEHILL DANCER PASSES AWAY

Coolmore pensioner **Danehill Dancer (Ire)** (Danehill--Mira Adonde, by Sharpen Up {GB}) was euthanized last weekend due to the infirmities of old age, Coolmore announced Monday. The 24-year-old had been enjoying life at Coolmore Stud since his retirement from covering duties in 2014. Bred by Larry and Kip McCreery, he was purchased by Demi O'Byrne as a yearling at Goffs in 1994 for Ir£38,000. The son of Danehill was trained for Michael Tabor by Neville Callaghan in Newmarket to win both the G1 Phoenix S. at Leopardstown and the G1 National S. at The Curragh as a 2-year-old en route to champion juvenile honours in his native land. He reappeared as a 3-year-old to win the G3 Greenham S. with his best subsequent run being a third in the G1 Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville later that summer, before retiring with a mark of 11-4-1-1, and earnings of \$287,130.

He retired to stud at Coolmore where he made an immediate impact off a low covering fee, while also shuttling to Coolmore Australia. Many breeders who identified his early promise were



Danehill Dancer | Coolmore Stud



Mastercraftsman | Coolmore Ireland

well rewarded in the sales ring as his fee rose from just Ir£3,500 in 2000 to a high of €115,000 in 2007 and 2008.

Danehill Dancer became champion sire in Britain and Ireland in 2009 and was Champion 2-Year-Old Sire on three occasions.

"Danehill Dancer was a wonderful sire and has left a significant legacy at Coolmore through his sons Mastercraftsman (Ire) and Choisir (Aus) and grandson Starspangledbanner (Aus), while The Gurkha (Ire) is a very exciting sire prospect for the future," said Coolmore's M.V. Magnier on Monday. The aforementioned Mastercraftsman and Choisir typified the stallion's ability to sire brilliant horses that excelled over a variety of trips.

Mastercraftsman showed top-class form up to 10 furlongs, while Choisir was an explosive sprinter. As a broodmare sire, Danehill Dancer enjoyed a stellar year in 2016 being responsible for multiple Group 1 winners The Gurkha (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Minding (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and Alice Springs (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

Acknowledging Danehill Dancer's influence as a broodmare sire, Magnier added, "His brilliant daughter Legatissimo (Ire) was scanned in foal to Galileo this morning and Minding and Alice Springs will be very welcome additions to the broodmare band once they finish their racing careers."

From 17 crops of racing age Danehill Dancer sired 170 stakes winners, five champions (including in both hemispheres) and 21 Group/Grade 1 winners. In addition to those mentioned above he also sired Classic winning fillies Dancing Rain (Ire) and Speciosa (Ire) while last year he was represented by the Jean-Claude Rouget trained Qemah (Ire) who won both the G1 Coronation S. at Royal Ascot and the G1 Prix Rothschild at Deauville.

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SIX WILDCARDS FOR CHELTENHAM SALE

Tattersalls Ireland has added six wildcards to its Cheltenham Festival Sale, which will take place in the parade ring after the last race in Cheltenham on Thursday. This brings the number catalogued to 28 and all six wildcards are point-to-point winners from last weekend, five in Ireland and one in England.

They include [lot 6](#), **Minella Mischief (Ire)** (Kayf Tara {GB}), a 5-year-old trained by Colin Bowe to win at Lingstown last Sunday; **Cracking Destiny (Ire)** (Dubai Destination) ([lot 10](#)), winner of the 4-year-old maiden at Horse And Jockey for Donnchadh Doyle; [lot 14](#), **Mr Whipped (Ire)** (Beneficial {GB}), another 4-year-old maiden winner who scored at Lingstown for Denis Murphy, the vendor of recent high-profile Cheltenham sale graduates Finian's Oscar (Ire) (Oscar {Ire}) and Poli Roi (Poliglote {GB}). [Lot 21](#) is another 4-year-old by Beneficial, **Speak Easy (Ire)**, who won at Kilworth on Sunday for Sean Doyle of Monbeg fame. **Maire Banrigh (Ire)** ([Lot 25](#)) is a well-bred mare by King's Theatre (Ire) who won a maiden on debut at Lingstown; while the sole British wildcard is [lot 28](#), **Present In Court (Ire)** (Court Cave {Ire}), a winner at Bangor on Dee on Sunday. The sale also offers a unique opportunity for anyone seeking a runner at the Cheltenham Festival.

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Pictured at nine days of age is a full-brother to MG1SW Prince Gibraltar (Fr) (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}), who was born Mar. 4. The foal's dam, Princess Sofia (UAE) (Pennekamp), will be covered by The Gurkha (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in 2017. "[He has] big, strong bones and [is] full of life," commented Sybille Gibson of Haras de Montaigu in France, where Prince Gibraltar stands. | Haras de Montaigu

BRITAIN



ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Cinque Port (GB), c, 3, **Compton Place (GB)**--Jump Ship (GB), by Night Shift. CHD, 3-13, 6f (AWT), 1:11.40. B-M H Dixon (GB).

FRANCE



Monday's Results:

2nd-CMP, €25,000, Mdn, 3-13, unraced 3yo, f, 10fT, 2:18.59, hy.

+COPYING (GB) (f, 3, Choisir {Aus})--Epistole {Ire} {GSP-Fr}, by Alzao was swiftly into stride and occupied a forward role in third after the opening skirmishes of this unveiling. Slipping one spot to fourth in early stretch, the 31-10 second choice came under pressure with 300 metres remaining and kept on strongly once gaining an open lane at the eighth pole to score by 1 3/4 lengths from Limited Edition (Fr) (Kendargent {Fr}). Half-sister to the 2-year-old filly Lettre Australe (FR) (Harbour Watch {Ire}), Copying is the fourth winner out of G3 Prix Cleopatre runner-up Epistole (Ire) (Alzao) and is also half to Listed Coupe des Trois Ans scorer Aigle d'Or (GB) (Halling) and Listed Prix Ronde de Nuit runner-up Lettre Spirituelle (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}). Her stakes-placed second dam Epistolienne (Ire) (Law Society), herself a half-sister to MGSW G1 Epsom Oaks runner-up Acclimatise (GB) (Shirley Heights {GB}) and G1 1000 Guineas runner-up Dabaweyaa (Ire) (Shareef Dancer), also produced MGSW French highweight Epitre (Fr) (Common Grounds {GB}) and MGSW Epistolaire (Ire) (Alzao). Sales history: €20,000 RNA Ylg '15 ARAUG. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €12,500. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.](#)

O-Ecurie Haras du Cadran & Ecurie Saint Martin; B-Ecurie Haras du Cadran, Picsoo SCS & SCEA Bissons (GB); T-Carlos & Yann Lerner.

4th-CMP, €25,000, Mdn, 3-13, unraced 3yo, c/g, 10fT, 2:19.56, hy.

+MY SCHOLAR (FR) (c, 3, Pour Moi {Ire})--Emma Knows {Ire}, by Anabaa was positioned in rear after recovering from a slow getaway in this first go. Fanning widest to race underneath the stands' side rail in the straight, the 44-5 chance joined the front rank passing the quarter-mile marker and ran on strongly for continued rousing in the closing stages to deny Mightily (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) by 1 3/4 lengths.

4th-CMP Cont.

Half-brother to a 2-year-old filly by Motivator (GB), he hails from a family which includes MG1SW European champion Culture Vulture (Timeless Moment) and MG1SW sires Zilzal (Nureyev), Awe Inspiring (Slew o' Gold) and Polish Precedent (Danzig). Sales history: €45,000 RNA Ylg '15 AROCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €12,500. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#). O-Guy Heald; B-GB Partnership (FR); T-Henri-Alex Pantall.

5th-TLU, €22,000, Mdn, 3-13, 3yo, 8fT, 1:37.75, hy.

AJLAN (FR) (c, 3, [Zoffany {Ire}](#)--La Jalousie {Fr}, by Muhtathir {GB}), who ran second in starts at Bordeaux-le-Bouscat Sept. 27 and Nov. 4, broke well and asserted for control after the early strides of this sophomore bow. Holding sway thereafter, the 1-2 chalk was last to come off the bridle in the straight and kept on powerfully under minimal urging inside the final quarter mile to prevail by a geared-down 1 1/4 lengths from Ascot Angel (Fr) (Dark Angel {Ire}). The €150,000 AROCT yearling, half to a 2-year-old colt by Penny's Picnic (Ire) and a yearling colt by George Vancouver, is the first scorer out of an unraced half-sister to stakes-winning G1 Prix Saint-Alary runner-up Believe Me (Ire) (In the Wings {GB}). Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, €17,400. [Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton](#).

O-Al Shaqab Racing; B-Emmanuel & Mlle claire Dibatista (FR); T-Jean-Claude Rouget.

3rd-TLU, €30,000, Cond, 3-13, 3yo, 6fT, 1:14.14, sf.

CAPCHOP (FR) (c, 3, [Captain Chop {Fr}](#)--Gooseley Lane {GB} {SW-Ger}, by Pyramus) Lifetime Record: 10-4-2-1, €64,960. O-Guy Pariente; B-Alain Chopard (FR); T-Philippe Sogorb. *€37,000 Ylg '15 OSLATE.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Sirrin (Ire), f, 3, [Sea the Stars \(Ire\)](#)--Sindirana (Ire) (SW-Eng), by Kalanisi (Ire). AGN, 3-12, 12 1/2fT, 2:51.48. B-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC (IRE). *1/2 to Sinkal (Smart Strike), SP-Ire, \$179,700.

+Queen of Fortune (Fr), f, 3, [Soldier of Fortune \(Ire\)](#)--Mascara (Ger), by Monsun (Ger). SPC, 3-12, 10 1/2fT, 2:26.89. B-Haras de Quetieville (FR). *€70,000 RNA Ylg '15 ARQNOV. **1/2 to Max Dynamite (Fr) (Great Journey {Jpn}), Hwt. Older Horse-Eur, at 14+f, GSW-Eng, G1SP-Aus & SP-Fr, \$967,906.

OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

1.10 Chantilly, Mdn, €25,000, 3yo, f, 9f (AWT)

CADENCIA (GB) ([Shamardal](#)) is a daughter of 2008 G1 Preis von Europa victress and G1 Preis der Diana placegetter Baila Me (Ger) (Samum {Ger}), and debuts for the Andre Fabre stable in this distaffers' test. Her ten rivals include fellow Godolphin colourbearer **Blue Illusion (GB) ([Dubawi {Ire}](#))**, a once-raced Henri-Alex Pantall trainee, who is out of 2011 G1 1000 Guineas, G1 Irish Oaks and G1 Yorkshire Oaks heroine Blue Bunting (Dynaformer).

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EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

IN AUSTRALIA:

@Annus Mirabilis (Ire), g, 6, [Montjeu \(Ire\)](#)--Love Me True (GSP-Ire), by Kingmambo. Morphettville (Adelaide), Adelaide Cup-G2 (£248k/€284k), 3200mT, 3:24.25. B-Southern Bloodstock. *1/2 to Duke of Marmalade (Ire) (Danahill), Ch. Older Horse-Eur, Hwt. Older Horse-Eng & Ire at 9.5-10.5f & 10.5-13.5f, MG1SW-Eng, G1SW-Ire & Fr, \$2,777,768; Countess Lemonade (Storm Cat), GSP-US, SP-Fr; Ruler of the World (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Hwt. 3yo-Eur, Eng & Ire at 9.5-11f, Hwt. Older Horse-Ire, G1SW-Ire, GSW & G1SP-Eng, GSW-Fr, \$1,648,640; and Giovanni Canaletto (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), G1SP-Ire, GSP-Eng, MSP-HK, \$619,556. [VIDEO](#)

Monday's Results:

6th-MOV, A\$35,000, Hcp. (BM64), 3yo/up, 1200mT, 1:10.81, gd.

HANDSOME THIEF (IRE) (c, 4, [Shamardal](#)--Insoumise {Ire}, by Galileo {Ire}) made the most of his belated debut over course and distance Jan. 27, but tried to lead in a BM64 at Sandown and was run down close home Feb. 22. Backed down to 1-4 favoritism to bounce back here, the homebred jumped on terms and settled midfield for the opening 600m. Shuffled back and more or less last nearing the final quarter mile, he swung out into about the four path off the home turn, swooped to the front with about a furlong to race and came away to score decisively by 3 1/2 lengths.

"We certainly had to make things happen, getting out, and he showed his class--he's a pretty smart horse," winning rider Brad Rawiller told Racing.com. [Cont. p9](#)



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6th-MOV Cont.

“I’m certain there’s a nice race for him. He’s better than this class, and he ran that way. The distance suits him right now. He does have a little breathing issue, but when he gets into rhythm, it doesn’t seem to worry him in the race.” Handsome Thief is the first foal for his dam, an €350,000 purchase by Fudge from the draft of Wertheimer et Frere at the 2011 Arqana Breeding Stock Sale.



Handsome Thief's dam Insoumise
Arqana photo

Insoumise is a half-sister to G1SW Plumeria (GB) (Anabaa) and to GSW Balladeuse (Fr) (Singspiel {Ire}), the dam of 2016 G1 Prix Vermeille winner Left Hand (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), while Handsome Thief's third dam Featherhill (Fr) (Lyphard) is

responsible for French champion and G1SW Groom Dancer. Insoumise's foal of 2014 and 115,000gns TATOCT yearling, Thunder Speed (GB) (Dylan Thomas {Ire}), won his maiden over the Dundalk all-weather Dec. 23. Insoumise produced colts for Waratah by Oasis Dream (GB) in 2015 and 2016. Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, A\$40,400. --Alan Carasso O/B-Waratah Thoroughbreds; T-Darren Weir.

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WORLDWIDE NEWS

Awesome Rock Retired Cont.

Awesome Rock gained compensation for that episode when he landed the G1 Emirates S. at Flemington in November, but has been well below that level in his three runs since, most recently finishing ninth to Humidor (NZ) (Teofilo {Ire}) in the G1 Australian Cup last Saturday. His four wins also included a victory in the G2 Dato Tan Chin Nam S. at Moonee Valley last year and he retires with a lifetime record of 28-4-3-4 for earnings of A\$2,038,720.

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COLT & FILLY SHARE TOP BILLING AT MM



Lot 77 | Magic Millions

A colt and a filly by Stratum (Aus) and Not A Single Doubt (Aus) shared top honours at Monday's opening session of the Magic Millions Adelaide Yearling Sale at Morphettville. Both yearlings were knocked down for A\$170,000 during a session that failed to match the early pace of the 2016 sale. Last year 20 lots made A\$100,000 or more while the corresponding figure on Monday was seven. Seventy-four yearlings changed hands during the session for a total of A\$3,324,500. This equated to an average of A\$44,926, a median of A\$35,000 and a clearance rate of 76%, down from 82% last year. [Cont. p10](#)



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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING STATS FOR THE:

MAGIC MILLIONS ADELAIDE YEARLING SALE

SESSION TOTALS	2017	2016
• Catalogued	107	100
• No. Offered	97	91
• No. Sold	74	75
• RNAs	23	16
• % RNAs	24%	18%
• No. A\$100K+	7	20
• High Price	A\$170,000	A\$230,000
• Gross	A\$3,324,500	A\$3,865,500
• Average (% change)	A\$44,926 (-13%)	A\$51,540
• Median (% change)	A\$35,000 (-12.5%)	A\$40,000

Magic Millions Adelaide Yearling Sale Cont.

"It was a tough start there's no denying that," Magic Millions Managing Director Vin Cox said. "But it did settle very well toward the end of the night. Our average is slightly up on the total Book One average from last year so that is a real positive."

Cox continued, "The two obvious highlights were the yearlings selling for A\$170,000--the Stratum colt for Willow Grove Stud which was a great result for local breeding identity Ralph Satchell and also the Not a Single Doubt filly for Attunga Stud."

For Willow Grove Stud, the sale of [lot 77](#) represented the highest price they have received for a horse at auction when the Macdonald/Gluyas stable signed for their colt for A\$170,000. The Oct. 9 born bay is a half-brother to stakes winner Inner Warrior (Aus) (God's Own {Aus}), out of the three-time winner El Milagro (Aus) (Encosta De Lago {Aus}).

"He was a great colt with lots of interest," Willow Grove's Ralph Satchell said. "He's as good a quality of animal as we've ever taken to a sale."

Buyer Leon Macdonald concurred with this and was determined to bring him home. "I thought he was probably a A\$150,000 colt," he said. "He's a very nice horse - his X-Rays were good and he looks a runner. I think Adelaide is a real type sale and I thought he was as good as any colt here."

Young bloodstock agent James Ferguson has recently struck up an alliance with the British based agents Johnny and Susie McKeever and he went to A\$170,000 to secure the joint top lot of the evening, [lot 94](#), from Attunga Stud.

"I've been here for the last couple of days and went around and looked at everything on site," Ferguson said. "I identified her as a cracking filly, but I didn't have a client for myself so I put her up to Robbie Griffiths and Peter Ford and they were very happy with her so she was bought on their behalf and she's going to Robbie's stable in Victoria."

Like the other co-topper, this filly is out of an Encosta De Lago mare in Fidele (Aus), who has a 100% record with her four runners who have all won.

Ferguson continued, "Peter rated her highly on pedigree and we thought she was the closest yearling we'd seen all year to



Lot 73 | Magic Millions

Not a Single Doubt. She will be up and running and hopefully she'll be running at two and aiming for the Blue Diamond next year."

It took a bid of A\$155,000 from Lyndhurst Farm to secure [lot 73](#), a colt

by Hinchinbrook (Aus) offered by Ambergate Farm. He is the second produce of Downstream (Aus) (Rakti {GB}), who is a half-sister to Group 1 winner Above Deck (Aus) (Bianconi).

Day Two of the sale commences on Tuesday at 10 a.m. local time with lot 108 through to lot 333. For the full results, go to www.magicmillions.com.au.

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SESSION TOPPERS

MAGIC MILLIONS ADELAIDE YEARLING SALE DAY 1 TOP LOTS

Lot	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price (A\$)
77	c	Stratum (Aus)	El Milagro (Aus) <i>B-Mr. RB Satchell (SA)</i>	170,000
Consigned by Willow Grove Stud Purchased by Macdonald Gluyas Racing				
94	f	Not A Single Doubt (Aus)	Fidele (Aus) <i>B-Mr G Walsh, L Maxsted, S Tuxen (Vic)</i>	170,000
Consigned by Attunga Stud Purchased by Griffiths Racing/Peter Ford T'Breds (FBAA)/McKeever Bloodstock				
73	c	Hinchinbrook (Aus)	Downstream (Aus) <i>B-N/A (Aus)</i>	155,000
Consigned by Ambergate Farm Purchased by Lyndhurst Farm				

NEW VENTURE FOR WILLIAMS

After 10 years involvement in different sectors of the industry New Zealander Andrew Williams has launched his own bloodstock agency. Operating out of Sydney as Andrew Williams Bloodstock, the new venture will work closely with established racing stables and breeders in Australasia, offering a full range of bloodstock services. A graduate of the Godolphin Flying Start, Williams has logged some valuable experience with Darley, Blandford Bloodstock and most recently with Arrowfield Stud.



Andrew Williams

Andrew Williams Bloodstock

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American Steeplechasing
welcomes international participation
in its leading races.

National Steeplechase Association
purses are at record levels
and growing.

▶ **\$200,000**

Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1)

Featuring the

\$500,000 TVV Capital Iroquois–Cheltenham Challenge

Three miles • Weight for age on Saturday • May 13 in Nashville, Tennessee

▶ **\$100,000**

Marcellus Frost Novice Stakes

2¼ miles • For novices, also at the Iroquois Steeplechase on May 13

▶ **\$400,000**

Grand National (Gr. 1)

2⅝ miles • Weight for age on Saturday • October 21 in Far Hills, New Jersey



Go Jump Racing!

New Venture for Williams Cont.

"I'm very grateful to everyone who has helped me to develop my career to this point, especially John Messara and the team at Arrowfield, Darley America, and Richard Brown and Tom Goff from Blandford Bloodstock," Williams said. "I have the appropriate mix of experience, knowledge and energetic youth to launch my own business, and couldn't be more excited about the future. I'm looking forward to giving clients a full-support service so they can enjoy their racing and breeding interests with confidence."

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FRANKEL'S MEROVEE SPARKLES IN TRIAL



Merovee, pictured as a yearling | *Inglis*

Expensive Inglis Easter yearling **Merovee (Aus)** (Frankel {GB}), out of two-time Australian Group 2 heroine and G1 Golden Slipper third-place finisher More Strawberries (Aus) (More Than Ready), won his first barrier trial, a 900-metre affair and eighth on the day ([video](#)), at Rosehill Monday. Dead least through the early going, the A\$1.6 million yearling was given an easy time of it by Kerrin McEvoy against the rails until the 400-metre mark. Swung off the fence turning into the home straight, the Chris Waller trainee split horses willingly and moved into fourth at the 200-metre point before setting his cap on the frontrunners and forging past to win easily by 3/4 of a length. Stablemate **Kookabaa (Aus)** (Hinchinbrook {Aus}) just touched off **Fortune Star (Aus)** (Rothesay {Aus}) for place honours. Timed in :54.70 for the distance and his final 600 metres in :35 flat, it was Merovee's third barrier trial to date and first since Feb. 27. Knocked down to co-owner Waller as [lot 423](#) from the consignment of breeder John Singleton's Strawberry Hill Stud, the colt's dam was also runner-up in the G1 Flight S. His lone

sibling is a weanling half-sister by Fastnet Rock (Aus), while More Strawberries was bred back to that Coolmore shuttler in September. More Strawberries is a half-sister to G1 Cantala S. hero All American (Aus) (Red Ransom), while her dam, a daughter of French champion juvenile filly Tera (Mr. Prospector), is a winning half-sister to MGISW Rock Hard Ten (Kris S.). ([Click here](#) for more on Merovee by Kelsey Riley.)

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DEBT COLLECTOR A GO FOR DUBAI TURF

Singapore's Horse of the Year **Debt Collector (NZ)** (Thorn Park {Aus}) will face the starter in the \$6-million G1 Dubai Turf at Meydan Mar. 25, trainer Cliff Brown confirmed Monday. Brown had just returned from a fact-finding mission to Dubai to make sure conditions at Meydan suited the Barree Stable runner.

"I've never been to Dubai," commented the Australian to the Singapore Turf Club notes team. "I wanted to take a look for myself and see what the conditions are like, mainly the track and the training facilities. I couldn't afford to go blind. I was happy with what I saw, and we decided to run him after all."

Debt Collector, a three-time Singapore Group 1 scorer, finished third last out in a 1600-metre open race Mar. 3, but it was discovered later that he suffered from respiratory distress during the running. A subsequent vet check cleared the bay, who has bounced back well from his subpar performance.

"Yes, we did have a rethink after his last race, but we waited a little to see how he pulled up and he's recovered from that respiratory distress," said Brown, who saw his charge's eight-race winning streak snapped Mar. 3. "I'm happy with his condition and that's the race we wanted to have a crack at. We wouldn't know if he can measure up if we stayed at home, and that's why we rolled the dice and went for it. He is leaving at the end of this week, together with Ricardo [Le Grange]'s horse [Quechua {Arg} {Pure Prize}]."

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Debt Collector | *STC photo*